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1. MMA finalist

## 2. BBSPA Finalist

## 3. Arthroplasty

## 4. Foot &amp; Ankle

- PF01A Open Trimalleolar Fracture Of The Ankle: A Case Report (PF01A-Open-Trimalleolar-Fracture.pdf)
- PF01C Ankle Tubercular Septic Arthritis Overlooked? A Case Report (PF01C-Ankle-Tubercular-Septic.pdf)
- PF01D Chopart Joint Injury With Anterior Process Calcaneal Fracture: A Case Report (PF01D-Chopart-Joint-Injury.pdf)
- PF02A External Fixator: The Answer To Complex Diabetic Foot Ulcer (PF02A-External-Fixator.pdf)
- PF02B A Case Report Of An Isolated Navicular Dorso-Medial Fracture Dislocation (PF02B-Case-Isolated-Navicular.pdf)
- PF02C Talar Body Fracture In Sagittal Plane With Successful Surgical Treatment (PF02C-Talar-Body-Fracture.pdf)
- PF02D Tarsal Tunnel Syndrome, Are We Still Aware? (PF02D-Tarsal-Tunnel-Syndrome.pdf)
- PF03A Distal Tibiofibular Joint Screw Fixation When Long Intramedullary Nail Insertion Is Inevitable: A Case Report (PF03A-Distal-Tibiofibular-Joint-Screw.pdf)
- PF03C Outcome In Surgical Treatment Of Comminuted Navicular Fracture (PF03C-Outcome-Surgical-Treatment.pdf)
- PF03D Primary Subtalar Fusion For Advance Type Of Post Traumatic Talus Fracture Using External Fixator – Case Series (PF03D-Primary-Subtalar-Fusion.pdf)
- PF04A Land On Your Own Feet: Case Report Bilateral Calcaneal Fracture With Talocalcaneum Dislocation In Children (PF04A-Land-Your-Feet.pdf)
- PF04B Hindfoot Arthrodesis Nails: An Overview (PF04B-Hindfoot-Arthrodesis-Nails.pdf)
- PF04C A Multi-Centred Study Of Incidence Of Avascular Necrosis In Relation To Timing Of Surgery Following Traumatic Neck Of Talus Fracture (PF04C-Multi-Centred-Study-Incidence.pdf)
- PF04D Tibial Pilon Fracture In A Skeletally Immature Patient: Mini Open With Intrafocal Pinning And Reduction Technique; A Case Report (PF04D-Tibial-Pilon-Fracture.pdf)
- PF05A Ankylosis Of Ankle And Subtalar Joint In Chronic Osteomyelitis Of Distal Fibula. A Case Report (PF05A-Ankylosis-Ankle-Subtalar.pdf)
- PF05B Wrecked Calcaneum: ORIF With Primary Subtalar Fusion; A Case Report (PF05B-Wrecked-Calcaneum.pdf)

## 5. Hand

## 6. LLRS

## 7. Oncology

## 8. Ortho Research

## 9. Paediatrics

10. Spine

11. Sports

12. Trauma

13. Invited speaker abstract

14. Oral Presenters

**Note:** Click on the linked heading text to expand or collapse accordion panels.

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## MOJ Menu

- › About MOJ (/about-moj.php)
- › About ASEAN Edition of MOJ (/about-ASEAN-edition-moj.php)
- › Editorial Board (/editorial.php)
- › Editorial Process (/editorial-process.php)
- › Panel of Reviewers (/panel-reviewers.php)
- › Links (/links.php)

## Quick Links

- › Manuscript Submission  
(<http://www.editorialmanager.com/moj/default.aspx>)
- › Reviewers Submission  
(<http://www.editorialmanager.com/moj/default.aspx>)
- › Instructions for Authors (/instructions-for-authors.php)
- › Past Issues (/past-issues.php)
- › Instructions for Advertisers (/instructions-for-advertisers.php)
- › Search MOJ (/search.php)

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# **Tibial Pilon Fracture In A Skeletally Immature Patient: Mini Open With Intrafocal Pinning And Reduction Technique; A Case Report**

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

Pilon fractures are intra-articular fractures of the distal tibia associated with variable talar injury, articular disruption, and comminution. These fractures were first described by Destot in 1911 and have been reported to represent 7% of all tibial fractures and <1% of all lower extremity fractures in adults. Despite the low incidence of these fractures, the resulting morbidity is considerable. The vast majority of reported cases have involved adults, with sporadic inclusion of children. Pilon fractures are the result of complex forces with axial compression, forced dorsiflexion, often associated with violent rotation resulting in severe, comminuted

fractures. Several classification systems have been described; however, the most widely used system in the literature is that proposed by Ruedi and Allgower. They classified pilon fractures into three categories, based on the extent of articular surface fracturing. Type I fractures were nondisplaced, type II fractures were displaced with minimal comminution, and type III injuries were markedly comminuted

## **CASE REPORT**

We are reporting a case of a 13-year-old boy who fell from rooftop of 2 metres height and landed on his right ankle. Having sustained closed comminuted fracture of distal end right tibia and right lateral malleolus, he was duly planned for surgical intervention. We performed a mini open approach with intrafocal pinning, reduction and further stabilized by conventional plating. Patient was discharged home on day 3 post operation with no complications.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Preservation of the soft tissue is of particular importance in the care of pilon fractures. Traditional open reduction internal fixation of pilon fractures allows for direct visualization of the fracture(s) but is often criticized for the large exposure and periosteal stripping. External fixation has also been used but has

not demonstrated much advantage to internal fixation and requires significant postoperative care. As such, mini open or minimally invasive approach has gained popularity and fast becoming an option in management of pilon fractures. The reduction technique in mini open surgeries are always difficult. In this case, we used an intrafocal pinning and reduction method to reduce the articular fragment. Kapandji described the use of intrafocal K-wires to buttress the dorsal and radial fragments in extra-articular distal radius fractures. We applied the same principles, albeit in this case for the articular fragments of tibial plafond



▲ Pre-operative and intra-operative images

## **CONCLUSION:**

Mini open approach supplemented with intrafocal pinning and reduction technique offers a reliable option in treatment of pilon fractures, especially in the skeletally immature group.

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